

Appl. No. 10/706,058
Amdt. Dated May 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 15, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 81710.0262
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 16-21 and 25-29 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 3, 12, 14 and 22 are amended. Claims 3-4, 12-15 and 22-24 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On p. 3 of the Office Action, the Office states that Claim 3-4, 12-15 and 22-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In response, applicant has rewritten claim 3, 12, 14 and 22 in independent form including all the limitations of any base claim and any intervening claim. As such, withdrawal of the objection and allowance of claims 3, 12, 14 and 22 is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 depends from rewritten, independent claim 3 and as such, depends from an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 4 is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 depends from rewritten, independent claim 12 and as such, depends from an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Claim 15 depends from rewritten, independent claim 14 and as such, depends from an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

Claim 23 and 24 each depend from rewritten, independent claim 22 and as such, depend from an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 23 and 24 is respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejections

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-11, 16-19, 21 and 25-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hashizume. Claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-11, 16-19, 21 and 25-29 are cancelled without prejudice. This rejection is rendered moot due to the cancellation of claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-11, 16-19, 21 and 25-29 without prejudice.

Claims 9 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hashizume in view of Hamakawa et al. Claims 9 and 20 are cancelled without prejudice. This rejection is rendered moot due to the cancellation of claims 9 and 20 without prejudice.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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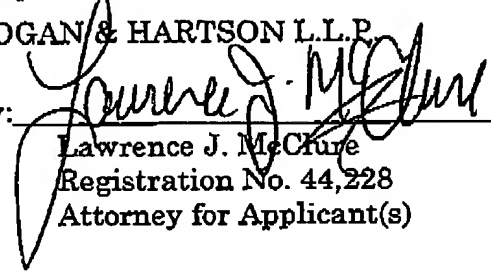
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: May 4, 2005

By:


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